



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY

Public Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Public Health Advisory

New Law Requires Provider Counseling before Exemptions from School Shots

Existing law exempts children from school required immunizations if the parent or guardian provides the school with a letter or affidavit stating that the immunization is contrary to his or her beliefs.

Starting January 1, 2014, a new California law ([AB 2109](#)) requires that, along with the letter or affidavit, parents must also provide the school with the *Personal Beliefs Exemption to Required Immunizations* form. [This form](#) must be signed and dated by a health care provider and the parent indicating that the provider has provided, and the parent has received, information about the benefits and risks of immunizations and the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Health care providers signing the exemption form will attest that they have counseled the parent or guardian regarding the risks and benefits of the specific immunizations as well as the health risks to the child and the community from the specific vaccine preventable diseases. This opportunity for educating parents is particularly important in San Luis Obispo County as we have a high rate (5.68%) of personal belief exemptions for kindergarten entry.

While it is up to the health care provider to determine how best to counsel parents, providers may find the following resources helpful:

A good place to start is www.shotsforschool.org which has a link to the exemption form, the legislation, FAQs, and an extensive resource list. The CDC webpage, *Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents*, includes fact sheets for vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), many of which are translated into Spanish (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/index.html).

For a quick reference guide to California required immunizations, ages, and number of doses required for school, please see: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-231.pdf>

For useful discussion points regarding commonly held fears and requests for alternative vaccine schedules, see: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-988.pdf>

Excellent information on individual vaccines and vaccine ingredients can be found in the "Vaccines" section of the Immunize for Good website from Colorado (<http://www.immunizeforgood.com/immunize-colorado>). The "Fact or Fiction" section addresses similar topics as the *Helping Parents Separate Fact from Fear* document such as natural immunity, delayed schedules, and the "too many too soon" concern but in greater depth.

Resources for Parents:

A six page handout, *Clear Answers and Smart Advice About Your Baby's Shots* by Dr. Ari Brown, is available at <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2068.pdf> and addresses many common concerns including autism, vaccine preservatives and adjuvants.

For a handout that reminds parents of the risk to the community if they choose not to vaccinate and the need to make healthcare personnel aware that their child is not vaccinated if they become sick, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/downloads/not-vacc-risks-bw-office.pdf>

For FAQs and answers including good Internet sources of information on immunizations, see the American Academy of Pediatric webpage: <http://www2.aap.org/immunization/families/faq.html>

The Shot by Shot story gallery (<http://shotbyshot.org/story-gallery/>) has many different short videos available and is organized by illness type. If you plan to use these videos (e.g., in your waiting room or on your website), please note that there is a permission request form on the website under “Use A Story.”